

SOME OF THE CREDIT GOES TO THE ESKIMO

Without Him Pole Hunting Would Be Very Difficult.

HARD WORKER, BUT DIRTY.

Plenty of Water Around His Land, but None of It Ever Touches Him—Arctic Air Keeps Northern Men in Good Health.

In spite of their differences regarding the discovery of the north pole and other matters, in one thing Commander Peary and Dr. Cook are in thorough agreement. With the other men who have sought "farthest north" records they declare that expeditions to or toward the pole would be almost if not quite impossible without the aid of the Eskimos. Almost all of the long line of arctic explorers have fully acknowledged their indebtedness to the men of the north for their familiarity with arctic conditions and their willingness to work as sledge drivers and burden bearers.

The only true Eskimos on this continent live on the west coast of Greenland from Upernavik to Etah, in the heart of the arctic, less than 700 miles from the pole, where so many fearless explorers have spent their long, dark winter night before the final dash on foot and sledges over ice and hummocks of ice.

With all their virtues of industry, honesty, peaceableness and docility the Eskimos are the filthiest people in the world. They never wash, not even face and hands. The smell of their fur clothing and secretions from the skin causes an odor about their persons, and especially in their igloos and tents, that is unbearable to tenderfeet. Living in huts of stone or ice in winter, in sealskin tents in summer, Eskimos never marry in the sense we use this word, but mate like animals. Swapping of mates for an indefinite time is common. Eskimos are the most widely scattered people on the globe, dwelling together in small bands, without central authority or government. There are less than 40,000 Eskimos all told.

Safe From Many Diseases.

Eskimos live almost entirely on raw animal food, and this explains the absence of a number of diseases which are common to civilization. Scurvy, so common and deadly among early polar explorers, is totally unknown among Eskimos who eat raw meat. This raw food also explains the absence of enlarged tonsils, glands and goitre. Their perfect, splendid teeth and strong lower jaws mark them completely carnivorous. The exclusion of vegetable food has shortened their intestine, and indigestion is unknown. One would suppose their pure flesh diet would cause biliousness, etc., but the large percentage of oil in their food acts as a gentle laxative and protects them against all harm. The Eskimo eats with relish old rotten blubber that would stagger a buzzard.

Consumption is unknown among the Eskimos in the north, nor is there any skin or bone form of tuberculosis, but when brought to the United States they contract consumption in most virulent form. Of six brought to New York all contracted the disease in less than six months. One who returned to his arctic home made a quick cure.

It is well known that the long arctic winter, with its depressing effects on body and mind, often upsets the best balanced nervous system, even of the natives. But this hysteria vanishes with the summer. Explorers have suffered in the same way, and two have committed suicide. In summer Eskimos get so full bloated that nose-bleeding is very common.

All degenerative diseases that cause so much suffering and death in civilization are absent from the Eskimos. The pure, sterile arctic air contains no germs, but the natives invariably take a bad "ship cold" when they go aboard white men's ships. Nature acts the good sanitarian in the far north and shuts the door against all disease germs. The use of remedies either inside or out is unknown. Wounds heal up at once without mattering. All tumors, warts and cancers are unknown.

Walrus Hunting Is Perilous.

The large number of children and lusty young widows shows the dangers of walrus hunting. The kayak, in which the hunting is done, is a very frail craft. The Eskimo can't swim. The wounded walrus tears or sinks the little skin canoe, and widow, children and relatives become common charges.

At a distance it is difficult to distinguish an Eskimo man from his mate, as the sexes dress similarly. The outer clothing consists of trousers and a coat fitting close to the body and covering the head by a prolongation of the coat, like a hood. The clothing is made of the skins of seals, land animals and birds. Some of the southern Eskimos have been Christianized, and their mode of life has been brought somewhat into conformity with civilized ideas. The great majority of them, however, believe in a crude form of nature worship and hero veneration.

First Case of September Strawberries.

The first September strawberries ever heard of in New Jersey were placed on sale in Belvidere, N. J., at fancy prices. They came from the farm of David Miller, just across the river in Pennsylvania. He has been experimenting with late berries and declares that they are just as good as those which bloom in June.

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